United Nations system

CEB/2015/2

Chief Executives Board for Coordination

18 January 2016

Original: English

Second regular session of 2015
New York, 18 November 2015

Summary of conclusions

I. Introduction

1. The second regular session of 2015 of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the Greentree Foundation in Manhasset, New York on 18 and 19 November 2015, respectively.

2. The formal session took place on the morning of 18 November and focused on climate change. In the afternoon, the Board held its final session on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the country level, followed by a discussion on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the afternoon of 18 November, the Board held an additional session devoted to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On the morning of 19 November, the Board held a retreat during which executive heads had an exchange of views on the topic "Enhancing integration across the United Nations system: interlinkage between peace, humanitarian and development efforts". A private meeting was held in the afternoon on political issues on the agenda of the United Nations.

3. The present report covers the outcome of the formal session of the second regular session of CEB of 2015.

4. The agenda of the second regular session was as follows:

1. Reports of CEB high-level committees:
   (a) High-level Committee on Management;
   (b) United Nations Development Group;
   (c) High-level Committee on Programmes;
   (d) Additional briefings and updates.
2. Issues of system-wide concern: climate change.
3. Other matters:
   (a) Dates and venue of future sessions;
   (b) Tribute to departing members.

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II. Reports of CEB high-level committees

A. High-level Committee on Management

5. Before introducing the report of the High-level Committee on Management on its thirtieth session, held at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London on 5 and 6 October 2015, the Chair of the Committee condemned the despicable terrorist attacks carried out in Paris on 13 November and expressed her sadness at those events. She stressed the role of all the organizations of the United Nations system in contributing to a more peaceful, equitable, people-centred world.

6. The Paris attacks were a reminder of the importance of the organizations' responsibility to ensure the safety and security of their staff, an area in which the Committee had been very active during the past few years. The Chair emphasized that the United Nations system needed to look at that area of work with a renewed sense of urgency to preserve its ability to deliver on its programmatic mandates while at the same time ensuring that staff remained physically and psychologically safe, so that they were able to fully contribute to the objectives of the organizations.

7. Turning to the report, the Chair highlighted recent developments and new activities that the United Nations system had been pursuing to prepare an operational response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. She noted that the Committee's deliberations on the operational fit for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had already led to one important conclusion: as the 2030 Agenda called on the United Nations system to move from silos to synergy and from fragmentation to partnership, the system had to pool its strengths and foster integration on all fronts, including operations. In fact, the operational infrastructure was the key enabler for working together. Over the past two years, the United Nations system had made significant progress in addressing many of the operational imperatives required to support the 2030 Agenda, including progressively developing global service delivery approaches and implementing several policy platforms for joint and more efficient service provision.

9. The adoption of international standards was also a driver for the United Nations system to perform as a modern, progressive organization that followed best management practices. The Chair stressed that the Committee had acquired good experience and had demonstrated success in that area, including with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the three lines of defence model for oversight and accountability and the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

10. Moving forward, more work was needed on the innovative use of technology, workforce design, funding modalities, and monitoring and accountability for results. The United Nations system must strengthen the alignment of its operational infrastructure with the 2030 Agenda, recognizing and valuing the different mandates of all its parts. The Chair underlined that the United Nations system was expected to change, modernize, become more cost-effective and deliver better. The Committee was the platform for delivering the coherent, coordinated, joint operational response that the 2030 Agenda called for.

11. The Chair noted that promoting a common sense of purpose through a high-performing international civil service was key to positioning the United Nations

system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The International Civil Service Commission had just concluded its comprehensive review of staff compensation for Professional staff. In the statement that the Board had approved in late 2013, executive heads put forward the main principles that should inform the Commission's review, as well as its desired outcomes. In the statement on the outcome of the review adopted by the Board (annex I), executive heads responded positively to the Commission's recommendations and declared themselves ready to work with the Commission on improvement in some areas while keeping the main thrust of the intended reform and change.

12. Recalling the prominence of human rights in the 2030 Agenda, the Chair noted that the Committee had made strides in raising awareness of staff responsibilities and deepening a culture of accountability. For example, at its last meeting, held in London, the Committee had expressed strong support for the initiative of the Secretary-General to strengthen the system's response to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Recognizing that sexual exploitation and sexual abuse touched on a series of related issues and should therefore be looked at from multiple perspectives, the Committee had noted that an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach was essential and that coordination with ongoing initiatives that dealt with the subject inside and outside the system was important.

13. Coordinated inter-agency cooperation was required to mainstream approaches to preventing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the work of the organizations of the United Nations system. To that end, a small strategic group led by the Department of Field Support had been established to review the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and decide how those proposals could best be carried forward. That work would also be instrumental to a more effective roll-out of the Human Rights Up Front initiative, which called for a cultural change within the United Nations system to ensure that staff recognized prevention and protection as a core responsibility and that they had a better understanding of how their work reinforced pillars other than their own.

14. The Chair stressed that Member States placed great importance on the efficiency with which the United Nations system delivered on its mandates and that, in an era of growing demand for resources, organizations must find new ways to provide more value for money.

15. The Chair recalled that, in pursuit of higher-quality, more effective and cost-efficient support services, a feasibility study on the interoperability of enterprise resource planning systems had been requested by Member States as part of the latest resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review adopted by the General Assembly. Led by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in his capacity as Chair of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Network and conducted by an external consulting company, the study analysed the barriers to inter-organizational operability and went beyond a narrow answer to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review mandate, concluding that while enterprise resource planning interoperability might be feasible, it should be seen as an enabler rather than a goal. An overarching business transformation was required to yield benefits. The Committee agreed that, without such a transformation, enterprise resource planning interoperability alone would produce more costs than benefits. In that context, limited efficiencies would derive from technical changes leading towards interoperability. The Committee agreed that

the work contributed significantly to current discussions surrounding the simplification and harmonization of business processes. As a consequence, a cross-functional task force had been established to conduct an in-depth review and assessment of recommendations contained in the study and to report back to the Committee at its first session in 2016 on any appropriate follow-up actions.

16. The Chair further noted that the Committee was strongly committed to supporting the requirement for quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data, which was critical to ensuring that no one was left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She recalled that the Committee was leading one of the four initiatives — the development of a United Nations system data catalogue — included in the CEB programme of work for a data revolution adopted by the Board at its first regular session of 2015. The data catalogue project aimed to make the data of the United Nations system open and accessible to the public and other key stakeholders, promote open data publishing among United Nations organizations and improve availability and accessibility of information so as to better inform the analytical and decision-making processes of the organizations. The public launch of the catalogue was scheduled to take place in February 2016.

17. The Chair stated that technology was an important, and currently underutilized, enabler of sustainable development and stressed that the development of innovative and sustainable business solutions was central to the work of the Committee. The Committee had embraced the use of ICT as an agent of change and improved knowledge management, as new technologies opened entirely new horizons to reshape the operational models of United Nations organizations. Within that context, the Committee had acknowledged the strategic importance for the United Nations system to approach the critical domain of information and knowledge management with unity of intent, and was therefore assessing possible approaches for the adoption of a common documentation standard across the system. A shared approach in that domain would avoid the proliferation of uncoordinated, organization-specific documentation standards and future digital fragmentation.

18. Before concluding, the Chair noted that to credibly deliver on the new sustainable development agenda, organizations needed to lead by example. The Committee was therefore striving to enhance the environmental sustainability of United Nations operations through the development and implementation of environmental sustainability management systems, at speeds that would vary depending on the readiness of the individual members. The Chair noted that more and more organizations were reporting important achievements in that area and that those were encouraging steps towards full compliance with the United Nations climate neutral strategy, to which the Board had collectively committed.

19. **CEB took note of the progress made and endorsed the report of the High-level Committee on Management on its thirtieth session.**

B. United Nations Development Group

20. The Chair of the United Nations Development Group briefed the Board on the ongoing activities of the Group and presented the Group's report titled *Results Delivered: Sharing Successes in 2014* as well as the reports on the Group's meetings held on 26 June and 26 October 2015. The Chair noted that in 2015, the Group had

focused on delivering on existing commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, driving system-wide reform through implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and ensuring that United Nations country teams were well positioned to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

21. In the wake of the recent reform of criteria for membership in the Group, the following United Nations entities had been granted observer status: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Volunteers, International Trade Centre and the six United Nations research and training institutes (United Nations University, United Nations System Staff College, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

22. The Chair noted that the Group was also hoping to receive positive responses to the invitations for full membership extended to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, IMO, the Universal Postal Union and the World Intellectual Property Organization. By formalizing its long-standing engagement with those entities, the Group intended to lay the foundation for even closer and deeper collaboration in support of a United Nations development system that stood united to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

23. Sharing her reflections on the joint side event that the Group had hosted at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda held on 25 September, titled "From global conversation to global action — making the Sustainable Development Goals work", the Chair noted that the Secretary-General and she herself had been joined on the panel by the Chancellor of Germany, the Prime Minister of Norway, the foreign ministers of two countries and the chief executive officer of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation to celebrate the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and to showcase efforts already under way in support of its implementation. The Chair noted that Member States had responded positively to the proactive approach the United Nations development system had been taking to support countries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In response to Member States' request for coherent and integrated support from the United Nations development system, the Group had agreed on elements of a future common approach: the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support strategy. United Nations country teams had already received guidance on the mainstreaming component.

24. The Chair noted that the standard operating procedures that the Group had developed over two years and that had been rolled out in 2014 were critical to the United Nations system being able to deliver integrated support at the country level. The Chair recalled that it had been only eight years since delivering as one was introduced on a pilot basis in eight countries and stressed that the United Nations system should aim to deliver better in all countries. The standard operating procedures represented the second generation of delivering as one.

25. The Chair expressed support for the United Nations country teams in effectively delivering, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on results together. She noted that while there had been considerable progress at the country level, where over 80 per cent of United Nations country teams had either fully embraced the

standard operating procedures or taken forward some of the core elements of the approach, more effort was required at the headquarters level to implement the procedures by aligning internal agency policies and processes accordingly. United Nations country teams were due to prepare almost 80 new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in 2015 and 2016. The newest generation of Frameworks demonstrated a clear focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and a much stronger emphasis on innovation and citizen engagement and on addressing vulnerabilities, inequalities and human rights.

26. The Chair noted that the Group's 2014 results report had captured the collective results achieved by the resident coordinator system at the country, regional and global levels in the first year of implementation of the Group's cost-sharing agreement. The report was the first of its kind to be informed by data and analysis from the Group's new global information management system, which had replaced the previous resident coordinator annual reporting format.

27. With regard to preparations for the Group's cost-sharing cycle for the biennium 2016-2017, the Chair noted that while all Group members had emphasized their commitment to contribute to the budget, only 10 of the 18 entities had so far indicated their intention to contribute the full amounts as calculated under the agreed cost-sharing formula. Seven entities had indicated that they would contribute reduced amounts, while the contribution of the United Nations Secretariat was still pending approval by the General Assembly. The current under-commitment would result in an estimated funding gap of $6 million for the biennium 2016-2017, which would grow to over $19 million if the contribution of the United Nations Secretariat were not approved. That would lead to a significant reduction in coordination capacity at the very time that Member States were calling for a more coordinated and coherent system.

28. The Chair emphasized that all members of the Group needed to invest fully in the resident coordinator system, as the failure of some members to meet their full commitments had a detrimental effect. She called upon those members that had not yet indicated the full amount of their contributions for the biennium 2016-2017 to make every effort to find the resources required to cover their full dues. She announced that the Group intended to conduct an independent review of the cost-sharing arrangement upon conclusion of the first cost-sharing biennium in mid-2016.

29. **CEB took note of the progress captured in the 2014 results report of the United Nations Development Group and endorsed the reports of the Group's meetings held on 26 June and 26 October 2015.**

C. High-level Committee on Programmes

30. The Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes introduced the report of Committee on its thirtieth session, held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 and 13 October 2015.

31. The Chair informed the Board that in line with its function as a think tank of the United Nations system, the Committee had focused its efforts on preparing the United Nations system to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, the Committee had played a leading role in helping the Board identify the five core transformative elements that were to guide United Nations

efforts in the post-2015 era: universality, integration, human rights, inequalities and data.

32. Building thereon, the Committee's recent work had focused on putting those guiding concepts into practice by devising new and innovative approaches. One such approach was issue-based multi-stakeholder partnerships, which the Committee was in the process of testing by applying it to concrete global issues such as youth employment and sustainable urbanization.

33. One outcome of that work, the strategy for the global initiative on decent jobs for youth, developed by the Committee under the leadership of the International Labour Organization (ILO), was being presented to the Board for its endorsement at the current session. The global initiative, formed around a strategic alliance within and beyond the United Nations system, was aimed at scaling up regional and country-level action, promoting knowledge-sharing and leveraging new capacities and resources. The Chair conveyed the Committee's confidence that the global initiative could serve as a model for a new modus operandi of the United Nations system in effectively supporting the 2030 Agenda.

34. In that connection, the Chair underscored that a key feature of the initiative was ensuring normative-operational linkage. He noted that ILO would spearhead its operationalization, working through relevant Group mechanisms. While the Committee was focused on policy-level coherence, the initiative represented a new way for the Committee to proactively pursue the operational linkage. The Chair also stressed that in order to succeed, the initiative would require system-wide commitment and support and noted with appreciation the pledges of dedicated resources that had been received from ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

35. The Chair elaborated on the Committee's efforts to unpack the concepts, interlinkages and implications of the transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda and to operationalize them through practical approaches; that work was another example of the Committee's unique contribution to preparing the United Nations system for the new era. Another initiative was the development of a new and enhanced way of mainstreaming human rights, through in-depth examination of the concept of inequalities and its implications for the efforts of the United Nations system in that regard. The document titled "Equality and non-discrimination at the heart of sustainable development: towards a United Nations system-wide policy and joint plan on addressing inequalities and human rights for sustainable development", a positioning paper issued by the Committee at its thirtieth session developed under the leadership of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), included a proposal that CEB adopt a policy statement on that issue. The proposal was currently before the Board for its endorsement.

36. In the positioning paper the Committee had outlined a practical yet paradigm-shifting new approach to addressing inequalities and discrimination as an integral part of a human-rights based approach at the centre of United Nations efforts. The Chair expressed the view that in many ways the new approach had the potential to significantly change the way the United Nations system planned, programmed and monitored its development efforts, aligning them with the imperatives in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. Moreover, given that inequality was a serious concern affecting all countries regardless of their

development status, the initiative could also serve as an entry point for addressing in a practical manner another of the transformative elements, universality.

37. With regard to the concept of integration, the Chair underscored that the 2030 Agenda called for a more coherent system-wide approach that combined and integrated efforts across the different pillars of the Charter of the United Nations, noting that the Committee, with its broad mandate that encompassed all the pillars of the Organization's work, was uniquely placed to champion new ways to promote policy integration and a whole-of-United Nations approach. In recognition of that fact and against the backdrop of key recent reviews calling for better-integrated action, the Committee had taken the initiative to address the linkage of sustainable development and sustaining peace in the context of the 2030 Agenda, especially its goal of promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and, more broadly, preventing conflict. The Chair observed that the Committee was enthusiastic about the first-ever opportunity to reach out and dialogue with the peace and security side of the United Nations system.

38. The discussion paper on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and preventing conflict, prepared by the Department of Political Affairs for the thirtieth session of the Committee, was presented to the Board to serve as substantive input to the discussion at the retreat to take place the next day. The Chair brought to the Board's attention the strong agreement among the members of the Committee that the Sustainable Development Goals were also an agenda for sustaining peace and that preventing conflict was a shared objective and responsibility of the entire United Nations system. The Committee underscored the need to transcend the pillars, overcome existing silos and work collaboratively across the full spectrum of United Nations mandates, united around common visions and directions.

39. The Chair conveyed the Committee's view that CEB and its subsidiary machinery had an important role to play in leading the United Nations system towards greater coordination and integration. For its part, the Committee was committed to contributing additional analyses from the perspective of policy coherence, with a view to developing a clearer conceptual framework of linkages across the pillars in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It was also ready to help articulate a coherent policy framework on risk management and resilience-building, a multifaceted challenge which the Committee, in its deliberations on various topics, had invariably emphasized as being a common need.

40. The Chair informed the Board that also on the Committee's agenda were two other global issues that required enhanced system-wide integration and coherence — disaster risk reduction and climate change — and that proposed new frameworks for deepening United Nations system-wide coordination in each area would be brought before the Board at its next session.

41. Finally, the Chair pointed out that while various processes and initiatives, including those of the Committee, were under way on different aspects of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee was concerned about the current lack of clarity with regard to an overall point of integration to synthesize and oversee the implementation effort in its entirety. The Committee felt that without such a centralized point, efforts made through various mechanisms might turn out to be ad hoc or, worse, at cross-purposes, and could perpetuate and deepen fragmentation. Recognizing that the matter was beyond the scope of high-level committees, the Chair stressed that the United Nations system

was looking to CEB for direction and guidance on how different parts of its efforts should come together into one unified whole in support of the 2030 Agenda.

42. Following the Chair's report on the work of the Committee, two additional speakers took the floor to elaborate on the two major products recommended to the Board for its endorsement.

43. Deploring the growing divide between the haves and have-nots, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights saw the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity to correct deepening and widening inequalities and discrimination. He commended to the Board the Committee's positioning paper on a system-wide, shared framework for addressing inequalities and discrimination in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the plan contained therein.

44. In the paper the Committee had demonstrated how pervasive inequalities, inequities and discrimination could stifle development and breed social, political and economic instability, unrest and sometimes violent conflict. It had unpacked the normative and operational imperatives that flowed from the 2030 Agenda and other core United Nations instruments. The High Commissioner highlighted the recommendations that CEB should issue a brief policy statement putting the imperative of combating discrimination and inequalities at the heart of United Nations efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and that the entities of the United Nations system should collaboratively define a shared framework for action, through a time-bound task force of the Committee. Calling for the work to begin without delay, he stressed that collective leadership was critical and urged the Board to endorse the paper.

45. The Director General of ILO commended the 19 United Nations entities that had comprised the Committee's task team for having framed the strategy for the global initiative on decent jobs for youth and for putting their institutional weight behind the effort. The product was of high technical quality and the process that had generated it was harmonious and constructive. He encouraged the organizations of the United Nations system to take the launch and implementation of the strategy forward in the same spirit.

46. Emphasizing the scope of the youth unemployment challenge, he underscored that the strategy must not be a declaration of intent, but rather a programme for practical action and implementation. The initiative had been designed to deliver concrete outcomes and be inclusive and agile, and demonstrate the full strength of system-wide action beyond inter-agency coordination. It would support achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 8 on decent work and economic growth.

47. The Director General briefly recounted the four elements of the strategy and noted that the working group on sustainable development of the United Nations Development Group needed to provide implementation guidance to United Nations country teams. For the successful implementation of that ambitious but feasible initiative, two challenges would need to be overcome: establishment of a transparent, global funding mechanism on youth and creation of a dedicated secretariat to launch the initiative and support it through its start-up phase. ILO, FAO, UNFPA and UNEP had so far offered full-time staff for the latter, and he looked forward to other entities offering their support.

48. **CEB thanked the Chair for his briefing and endorsed the report of the Committee on its thirtieth session, including the strategy for the global initiative on decent jobs for youth and the positioning paper on equality and non-discrimination at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.**

D. Additional briefings and updates

1. UN-Water

49. In his capacity as Chair of UN-Water, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) briefed the Board on recent activities of UN-Water. Noting the sustained commitment of Member States to water and sanitation issues, as exemplified by the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 6, he highlighted a number of recent high-level events that had underscored the continuous need for coordinated efforts around those issues. Those events included the holding of the High-level Water and Sanitation Days, the annual celebration of World Toilet Day and the launch of the UN-Water policy brief on eliminating discrimination in access to water and sanitation, prepared under the leadership of OHCHR.

50. Turning to the work of UN-Water specifically, he reported on the outcome of the most recent meeting of UN-Water, held in Stockholm in August 2015. At the meeting, UN-Water members focused on how best to support Member States in the follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, in particular goal 6. The meeting had resulted in commitments to provide consolidated technical input to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators; to support the integrated monitoring and reporting on all water- and sanitation-related targets in the Goals; and to continue to raise awareness and inspire action around water and sanitation issues, especially through the annual campaigns supporting World Water Day and World Toilet Day. In 2016, World Water Day would focus on the topic of water and jobs, while World Toilet Day would centre on sanitation and jobs. Both campaigns would be coordinated by ILO whose Director General would assume the Chair of UN-Water next year. The *World Water Development Report 2016*, to be published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on behalf of UN-Water, would likewise focus on the topic of water and jobs. In closing, the Secretary-General thanked the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the support provided to UN-Water in New York and the United Nations Office for Project Services for the efficient administrative arrangements that had facilitated the work of the coordination mechanism.

51. **CEB thanked the Chair of UN-Water for his update.**

2. Open consultation process on overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (WSIS+10)

52. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), speaking in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, recalled that the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which took place in Tunis in 2005, had highlighted the importance of ICT to the achievement of development goals. In the 10 years since that event, ICTs had had a tremendous impact as enablers of development, and the General Assembly would review the implementation of the

World Summit outcomes at a high-level meeting to be held at United Nations Headquarters in December 2015. He noted that despite tremendous improvements in the use of ICT, the ICT development agenda was far from complete and with increasing reliance on ICT within and across borders, new challenges had emerged, notably those related to cybersecurity and privacy, that required adequate policy response as well as close cooperation among all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society and academics. Pointing to the need for the United Nations system to play a leading role in addressing the relevant policy agendas and bringing the relevant stakeholders together, he noted that the Group had served as the key inter-agency mechanism for coordinating substantive policy activities related to the implementation of the World Summit outcomes. With its 30 member agencies spanning the development agenda of the United Nations system, the Group was well positioned to ensure that the ICT dimension was adequately reflected in the Organization's work to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. He particularly noted goal 17, to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, which called for enhanced use of enabling technologies, particularly ICT.

53. Reviewing the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the outcomes of the World Summit, he recalled several events organized by the Group over the past two years. The first event, hosted by UNESCO in 2013, had been followed by a high-level event hosted by ITU in 2014. He also referred to the 10-year review of the World Summit outcomes conducted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development earlier in 2015. He further noted that the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of two co-facilitators of the review, the Permanent Representatives of Latvia and the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, had begun the review process and that two rounds of informal meetings, held in the context of the plenary session of the General Assembly and two rounds of informal consultations with non-governmental organization stakeholders, had yielded a draft outcome document, due for final review in late November.

54. Stressing that it was important for the United Nations system to ensure that work related to the implementation of the World Summit outcomes was fully aligned with the substantive aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he urged CEB to recognize the potential consequences of ICT development and noted that discussions among Member States during the review would benefit from United Nations system-wide coordination, especially the sharing of information on the Organization's activities in relation to the World Summit, including good practices and lessons learned as well as mechanisms through which the interlinkages between the World Summit outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals could best be put into practice. He concluded by noting the excellent cooperation between the Group and the Office of the President of the General Assembly, along with other entities of the United Nations system, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ITU and UNESCO, and looked forward to continuing to enhance the involvement of United Nations agencies in the review.

55. In his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his comprehensive summary of actions undertaken in the context of the review and expressed appreciation for the broad support of organizations across the United Nations system for the process. A

related issue was the future of the Internet Governance Forum, a multi-stakeholder entity that had emerged from the World Summit process and that had proven to be a successful platform for the discussion of Internet-related issues. He noted that Member States were likely to extend the mandate of the Forum and might look to the United Nations system for support in improving its function.

56. The Secretary-General of ITU also expressed appreciation for the wide support received from the United Nations system for follow-up activities on the World Summit over the years leading up to the 10-year review, noting that it reflected the system's commitment to the implementation of the outcomes. He expressed the support of ITU for the preparation of a joint CEB statement that would convey the positive message that the United Nations system was working as one, ensuring coherence in policy and action in the field for information and knowledge societies, and would reaffirm the important role of ICT as a critical enabler of the agreed global development goals.

57. **CEB thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of ITU for their update on the open consultation process on overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes.**

3. System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

58. Speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General as moderator of the discussion on this subject, the Director General of ILO recalled the adoption in 2008 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which had served as an important standard and pre-eminent instrument for safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples and for improving their lives and livelihoods. In 2014, the General Assembly had requested the United Nations system to prepare a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration. A system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples had duly been developed and endorsed by the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs following an extensive consultation process that included Member States and indigenous peoples. The action plan sought to promote system-wide coherence in addressing the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples in the Organization's work in support of the implementation of the Declaration. He encouraged CEB members to support the implementation of the system-wide action plan in their respective organizations and to make concerted efforts to raise awareness on indigenous peoples' issues.

III. Issues of system-wide concern: climate change

59. In opening the discussion on climate change, the Secretary-General emphasized that the upcoming twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be the turning point, not the end point, on the road to a more sustainable future for all of humanity. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided the overarching framework for transitioning to a low-carbon development model. Sustained action

on climate change would be critical for achieving a majority of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda required the United Nations system to markedly change the way its constituent organizations worked together. The system needed to speak and act with one voice on climate change. Breaking down institutional silos, building bridges across sectors and departments and strengthening coherence and enhancing coordination would be necessary to ensure that the support that was provided to Member States by the United Nations system was greater than the sum of its parts.

60. The Executive Director of UNEP served as moderator of the discussion on climate change. Before opening the floor, he invited the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary-General of WMO, the Director General of UNESCO, the Vice-President and Special Envoy for Climate Change of the World Bank Group, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction to share their views on the topic.

61. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided the Board with an update on progress achieved in the preparations for the upcoming Conference of the Parties. The outcome of the Conference, to be known as the Paris Agreement, needed to be a turning point towards a new form of international cooperation in order to achieve the transformation of the global economy necessary to limit temperature rise to below 2° C. There were four pillars to the negotiations of the Paris Agreement: intended nationally determined contributions; actions and commitments by non-State actors; climate finance; and issues related to the text itself to ensure that it delivered a truly transformative agreement.

62. There had been notable progress with regard to intended nationally determined contributions, with 168 such contributions submitted covering almost 91 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Major achievements had also been made on the part of non-State actors, many of whose actions would be captured in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and highlighted during the Conference. Regarding climate finance, more work was required to connect the different streams of finance and ensure a politically credible trajectory for mobilizing the $100 billion needed annually by 2020. Lastly, regarding the agreement itself, the challenge for negotiating parties was to significantly trim the text while at the same time delivering an ambitious and robust agreement. Underscoring the urgency for action, the Executive Secretary called upon the United Nations system to make every effort to support Member States in achieving such an agreement. The system needed to speak forcefully and with one voice in support of an outcome that would pave the way for the transformational shifts required over the next 5-10 years.

63. The Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change focused his statement on the need to demonstrate to Member States that the United Nations system could be a preferred partner in the follow-up to the Paris Agreement within the context of the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At present, the Paris Agreement did not include language calling on the system to support the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions; however, several options existed to enhance the ability of the system to offer such

support. Overall, the system needed to address climate change with more vigour and agility. One option was the establishment of a dedicated entity that could ensure that climate action was properly mainstreamed into the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, thereby avoiding the creation of isolated and parallel work streams. Another option was the development of specific output-oriented, time-bound, multi-stakeholder initiatives by which several United Nations entities could contribute their respective expertise towards a set of common objectives and deliverables. The work streams within the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, particularly those on resilience and cities, as well as within South-South cooperation, offered examples of such initiatives. The adoption by CEB of a policy statement on climate change, to be issued for the Conference, would be an important and timely way to demonstrate the system's readiness to support climate action. In such a statement the Board could call for an ambitious and meaningful outcome of the Conference and pledge the system's commitment to offer coherent support to its implementation. It could further recognize the need for better integration of humanitarian and sustainable development actions and for adequate financing for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the broader 2030 Agenda.

64. Focusing on the role of UNDP in supporting Member States in developing their intended nationally determined contributions, the Administrator of UNDP noted that her organization had provided financial and technical support to more than 40 countries, 70 per cent of which had communicated their intended nationally determined contributions by the 1 October 2015 deadline. In addition, UNDP, in partnership with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and others, had organized 12 global and regional technical dialogues on the development of intended nationally determined contributions that had reached over 1,000 participants from over 130 countries. Furthermore, a pioneering guidebook on designing and preparing the contributions, developed in collaboration with the World Resources Institute, had been distributed to over 110 countries. Looking ahead, the Administrator remarked that countries were expected to turn to the United Nations system for support in translating their intended nationally determined contributions into action. The Paris Agreement must provide the necessary financial, technical and capacity-building resources to support the effective implementation of those contributions. The support provided by the system in that regard would also be critical for fostering more ambitious commitments in the future, as Governments reviewed and updated their contributions. Following the Conference, UNDP was ready to support countries' moves towards implementation, including in developing intended nationally determined contributions implementation plans, improving institutional structures and building systems to monitor progress towards the goals laid out in countries' contributions.

65. Speaking on the linkages between climate change and the broader sustainable development agenda, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs recalled that Sustainable Development Goal 13 called for all stakeholders to take prompt action to combat climate change and its impacts, a clear message that climate action was an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. He further observed that climate change cut across numerous other goals and targets and that many of the Goals would simply not be achievable without addressing climate change. Consequently, the United Nations system needed to increase its efforts to emphasize the interlinkages between climate change and sustainable development. The Under-

Secretary-General also underscored the complex challenges related to climate finance. The aim of delivering a credible trajectory for mobilizing $100 billion annually by 2020 had so far not been reached. Significant additional financial resources were required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for addressing climate change and for managing the refugee crisis. It was critical for the system to develop a clear vision of how to integrate the various strands. Without adequate financial support, many of the intended nationally determined contributions would remain empty promises.

66. The Secretary-General of WMO informed the Board that the current state of the climate was dire. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere had again broken historic records, requiring urgent and immediate action. The year 2014 had been the warmest on record, while 2015 promised to be even warmer by a significant margin. That was consistent with the trend of the past 50 years, when every decade had been warmer than the previous one. In addition, the current year's El Niño event was one of the most severe in the past 150 years and was expected to contribute to a further warming of the atmosphere. While there was no doubt about the warming trend, more work needed to be done in terms of attributing specific extreme weather events to climate change. That was particularly relevant in the context of losses and damage caused by climate change. New data needed to be developed through such collaborative efforts of the United Nations system as the Global Framework for Climate Services. The Secretary-General stressed that a five-year review cycle for the intended nationally determined contributions would be appropriate, allowing for adjustments to the contributions in the light of newly generated data and scientific evidence.

67. Speaking on the critical role of education in changing behaviours and shaping new values and sustainable lifestyles, the Director General of UNESCO highlighted the importance of education for sustainable development, a key component of the recently adopted Education 2030 Framework for Action. The Director General also emphasized the importance of science, technology and innovation for enabling societies to create knowledge and to craft transformative solutions. She pointed to her organization's work in support of the development of national frameworks and strategies for science, technology and innovation, notably in Africa. Citing the example of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, which promoted international cooperation in the area of marine sciences, ocean services and related activities, the Director General stressed the need for cooperation in the scientific and diplomatic spheres to share knowledge and inform decision-making, as well as the need for sciences that crossed disciplinary boundaries and created necessary synergies among all stakeholders.

68. The Vice-President and Special Envoy for Climate Change of the World Bank Group focused her statement on the issue of climate finance. Citing a recent report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, according to which $62 billion in climate finance was flowing from developed to developing countries, she noted that significant progress had been made in meeting global commitments to mobilize climate finance. However, the extraordinary pressure put on the public resources of a number of European countries as a result of the refugee crisis should be noted. The Conference of the Parties provided a politically credible pathway to raising $100 billion annually by 2020. The key challenge for the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks was to mobilize financing for the implementation of the intended nationally determined contribution. In that

context, efforts to use public finance to leverage private co-financing needed to be scaled up significantly. In addition, given that the vast majority of climate finance was currently dedicated to mitigation, more public resources needed to be channelled towards supporting adaptation and resilience building, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

69. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction spoke on the importance of climate risk assessment and risk management. The adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 had marked a significant shift in focus from managing disasters to managing risks. Addressing and managing climate change was indeed a major component of managing disaster risks. Another important outcome of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction had been the strong emphasis on integrated risk management across sectors and with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. The Sendai Framework was therefore a practical tool for overcoming institutional silos as well as for engaging the private sector and leveraging investments through public finance. The Framework brought together in one agenda disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change. Such an integrated approach was key to sustainable, resilient and climate-sensitive development.

70. Before opening the floor, the Executive Director of UNEP observed that the United Nations system needed to focus more attention on action on the ground in order to have impact and deliver results for countries affected by climate change. A multitude of initiatives were already under way. The challenge was to create synergies to optimize impact at the country level. The system needed to take action to remain credible. Referring to a technical note on the status of implementation of the United Nations climate neutrality strategy prepared by the Environment Management Group, of which he was Chair, 21 United Nations entities had reported having achieved climate neutrality for their facilities and operations as of November 2015, five years in advance of the deadline set in the system-wide road map for United Nations climate neutrality by 2020 that had been approved by CEB at its twenty-ninth session. The progress achieved to date was testimony to the ability of the system to transform the vision of the Secretary-General into a reality. The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and UNEP stood ready to continue to provide support in that regard.

71. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Board called for global action commensurate with the urgency and enormity of the climate change challenge. The United Nations system needed to upgrade its collective efforts to break down existing silos and barriers to achieve a holistic and integrated approach to climate action. Members widely shared the view that the path to addressing climate change was through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In turn, sustainable development could be achieved only by tackling the causes and effects of climate change. Closer collaboration, more joint programming and integration of climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction initiatives were seen as indispensable steps towards a more rigorous and effective system-wide approach to improving the lives and livelihoods of current and future generations. One member suggested that a system-wide action plan on climate change could be a useful tool in that regard. It was noted that as women and girls were affected differently by climate change, a gender dimension needed to be systematically included in climate action at all levels. Members also

shared experiences of their respective organizations in addressing the challenge of climate change, including in the areas of nuclear power and technology, and civil aviation.

72. The Board unanimously welcomed the proposal to issue a statement on climate change ahead of the Conference of the Parties, noting that it was timely for the United Nations system to enhance its collective efforts to support climate action and advocate for an ambitious and meaningful outcome of the Conference. In the light of the disproportionate effects of climate change and climate-related disasters on women and children, with the resulting implications for equity within and among nations, and the exacerbating impact of climate change on conflict and displacement, the Board in its statement should call for a Conference outcome that was gender-responsive, rights-based and geared towards addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. In addition, it should stress the urgent need for integrated approaches that bridged humanitarian, development and climate action. In that context, members pointed to United Nations conferences to be held in 2016, including the World Humanitarian Summit and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), that could serve as venues for further addressing the linkages between climate change and sustainable development.

73. In closing, the Secretary-General thanked Board members for their contributions to the discussion and their commitment to supporting Member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the context of the 2030 Agenda. He emphasized that advocacy was a critical contribution of the United Nations system to the negotiations in Paris and for reaching an ambitious outcome. The system needed to lead by example. Commending the 21 United Nations entities that had already achieved climate neutrality, he expressed the hope that the entire system would reach that goal soon.

74. **The Board endorsed the proposal to issue a statement on climate change ahead of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change was asked to prepare an initial draft. The statement (annex II) was subsequently reviewed by the High-level Committee on Programmes, endorsed electronically by Board members and submitted to the Conference.**

IV. Other matters

A. Dates and venue of future sessions

75. **The Board formally approved the dates of its first regular session of 2016, to be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna on 27 and 28 April 2016.**

76. The dates of the Board's second regular session of 2016, to be held towards the end of November 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, would be decided upon further consultation with Board members.

77. Finally, **the Board accepted in principle the invitation of ILO to host its first regular session of 2019 in Geneva on the occasion of the organization's 100th anniversary.**

B. Tribute to departing members

78. On behalf of the Board, the Secretary-General paid tribute to Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, and Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who would be leaving at the end of the year.

V. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

79. In his opening remarks at the additional session devoted to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General stressed that it was important for the United Nations system to be ready to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the start. He encouraged entities to break out of the silo mentality that had often guided the system's interactions and to commit to working as one united team to help Member States meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The Deputy Secretary-General, who moderated the session, highlighted the value of taking a horizontal approach to achieve both synergies across goals and integration across development, peace and security, human rights/rule of law and humanitarian efforts. Analysis of root causes, combined with a focus on prevention and resilience, would deliver results across the entire Agenda. Before opening the floor for discussion, the Deputy Secretary-General observed that universality was a significant and novel feature of the 2030 Agenda that needed to be considered further.

80. It emerged during the discussion that the Board members were united in the conviction that the 2030 Agenda had been developed as an integrated whole that required integrated solutions implemented through integrated action. It was reiterated that although Member States owned and would drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, they had high expectations of the United Nations system as partners in that effort. There was broad acknowledgement of the need to break down thematic and institutional silos as well as to bring the programmatic and support functions more closely together within the organizations of the United Nations system. It was also imperative to take an integrated approach across the pillars of the Charter of the United Nations and across development and humanitarian activities, especially to reach vulnerable populations. The need to work in a more coordinated way across global, regional and national levels was also highlighted. Board members expressed their support and commitment to lead their agencies to work together as one United Nations.

81. Executive heads described the considerable work already undertaken in their individual entities, within existing partnerships and as part of the work of the three CEB high-level committees to support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. There was general agreement that it was preferable to utilize existing mechanisms to the greatest extent possible; however, it was stressed that more needed to be done to realize the required culture of cooperation and whole-of-United Nations mindset. The United Nations system needed to evolve and adapt to meet the challenges of a universal and transformative agenda and fully utilize its

capacities and expertise in an integrated and whole-of-system manner. To translate commitment into results, it was suggested that the organizational arrangements and cooperation mechanisms of the United Nations system could be aligned with the substance of the 2030 Agenda and that agencies should engage with one another more systematically.

82. There was broad acknowledgement that the management and operational activities of the United Nations system had to be strategically repositioned to ensure that there was no disconnect between the goals and the means. To support a universal agenda, the United Nations system must be able to attract and retain a highly skilled international civil service able to address issues that were increasingly cross-disciplinary and required multisectoral approaches. The United Nations needed leaders with a one-United Nations mindset who were comfortable working across the development, humanitarian, human rights and peace and security pillars; had the sensitivity and courage to lead Human Rights Up Front; and had the skills to convene multi-stakeholder partnerships. Innovative and sustainable business models must ensure value for money and deliver high-quality, efficient and cost-effective operational services. Global and joint service delivery models must support integrated programmatic action, transparency and accountability for results.

83. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda was the need to address inequalities and reach the most vulnerable. Addressing the intergenerational cycles of poverty, serving the hardest-to-reach communities and people and including the most disadvantaged through participatory approaches would all be important in ensuring that no one was left behind. The principle of universality made it important that all Governments — those of the North and those of the South — be held responsible for addressing poverty and inequality.

84. Partnership, both among United Nations system entities and with other stakeholder groups, was essential. Members stressed that the participation of civil society needed to be safeguarded so that it could contribute to national planning, implementation and monitoring. Furthermore, the private sector possessed expertise and resources that would be key to reaching the goals.

85. With a wide array of actors mobilizing to support the 2030 Agenda and with limited resources, the entities of the United Nations system should contribute where they would add the most value. A unique role had been identified for the system to push forward the science of delivery, studying what historically had contributed to development, whether interventions could be scaled up and replicated in other circumstances and, if so, how and by whom. United Nations system entities could also have an impact through advocacy and communication by helping to rally the collective political will and action needed to achieve sustainable development.

86. Data, especially data disaggregated by gender, age, race, disability and other dimensions, were crucial to delivering on the 2030 Agenda, including by facilitating effective localization and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. To ensure that the United Nations system took a consistent approach to producing high-quality statistics for analysis and decision-making, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social affairs urged the agencies to adhere to the principles governing international statistical activities to which the chief statisticians and principal coordinators of statistical activities within the system and in other international organizations had committed in 2005.

87. Funding of the 2030 Agenda was a major challenge for the entire international community. It was observed that official development assistance represented only a very small portion of overall funding for development. Other sources of funding, including domestic resource mobilization, private sector investments and stemming of illicit financial flows, would become increasingly critical for achieving sustainable development outcomes. The United Nations system had an important role to play in identifying and developing alternative funding streams, promoting innovative financing and helping to increase total development resources, while at the same time pursuing efficiencies, reducing overlap and prioritizing activities within the respective organizations and across the system as a whole.

88. The Secretary-General thanked the members of the Board for committing to work together as a system to support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. He stressed the urgency of translating that agreement into action by transcending existing silos, assuming shared responsibility and joint ownership for the Sustainable Development Goals and pursuing multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet the challenges and reap the benefits of the transformative agenda. Observing that the United Nations system was moving towards a shared vision, he emphasized the need for a common reference point to guide the system's action and provide it with clarity and direction on the path ahead.

89. Noting the Board's preference for utilizing existing mechanisms, **the Secretary-General requested the Board's high-level committees to work together to produce one set of principles, across the policy, operational and administrative aspects of the work of the United Nations system, to guide the system's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated way.**

Annex I

Statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the outcome of the International Civil Service Commission Compensation Review

United Nations system organizations are committed to ensuring that they are fit for purpose to support Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This ambitious agenda, which incorporates a comprehensive, integrated and universal approach to sustainable development, has significant implications for human resources management in the organizations of the system.

The United Nations workforce is the major asset and investment of the system. To support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations system requires a highly skilled international civil service that is agile and flexible to operate with diverse partners in cross-disciplinary and multisectoral environments.

In the statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on the review of the common system compensation package by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) adopted in 2013, executive heads emphasized that, through the review, United Nations system organizations aimed to develop a competitive and simplified compensation package that would enable them to attract and retain staff of the highest calibre, in the context of strategic workforce planning.

Executive heads expressed the view that such a package should be informed by the following principles: competiveness; cost-effectiveness and predictability; equity and transparency; and simplification and ease of administration. It should support the attraction and retention of a diverse workforce and incentivize staff performance, mobility and service in hazardous and hardship duty stations.

CEB organizations welcome the recommendations of the compensation review of ICSC that achieve streamlining, simplification and transparency and cost efficiencies. The proposed unified salary structure is more modern, transparent and equitable and more properly reflects pay for work performed rather than for dependency status. Lump-summing and rationalizing certain allowances contribute to simplicity and provide cost-containment and predictability.

While certain aspects of the proposed system are more transparent, equitable, simplified and easier to administer, executive heads would like to emphasize three areas of importance to them where the proposed package could be further improved. Executive heads also wish to highlight that the General Assembly may wish to review the suggested increase in the base salary of seniormost staff.

Executive heads emphasize the importance of avoiding a negative impact on the ability of organizations to assign staff to hardship duty stations, and stress that the provision of appropriate rest and recuperation is essential for the health, well-being and productivity of staff in such difficult and dangerous locations.

Executive heads also emphasize the need for the new compensation package to support geographic and interorganizational mobility, which will be increasingly

required for organizations to deliver on the multisectoral, integrated 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While generally supporting the proposed social package under the comprehensive review, executive heads consider that additional support needs to be provided to single parents to further promote the recruitment and retention of staff, in particular female staff.

Executive heads recognize the need to take a holistic view of the package and are committed to a continuing collaborative effort to address the key areas where organizations have concerns.

Executive heads trust that the considerations outlined in the present statement will be taken into account by Member States during their review of the ICSC proposal in order to deliver a modern compensation package that will be a crucial enabler of the system's capacity to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Annex II

Statement by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on climate change

Climate change represents one of humanity's greatest challenges to the peaceful, prosperous and sustainable development of society. Each year, there is increasing evidence of its adverse impacts, particularly on the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations and countries. Climate change affects women and men differently, requiring gender-responsive climate action. No country is immune from the harmful effects of a changing climate, and no country acting alone can arrest it. Global cooperation is essential for meeting this challenge and transforming it into an opportunity for low-emission, climate-resilient growth that benefits all.

In September, the States Members of the United Nations unanimously adopted the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Putting the 2030 Agenda into practice provides the world with an unprecedented opportunity to build a better future for humanity that leaves no one behind.

Addressing climate change is fully consistent with, and necessary for, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In turn, the accelerated implementation of the Goals will be an essential vehicle for reducing global greenhouse emissions, strengthening resilience and decreasing the negative effects of climate change.

In recognition of the need to better integrate and coordinate their work on sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian engagement to achieve these objectives, the executive heads of the United Nations system:

(a) Urge parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to adopt a universal, ambitious, rights-based and gender-responsive agreement and accompanying decisions in Paris, which will put the world on an urgent pathway to limit global temperature rise to below 2° C this century;

(b) Commit their entities to provide strong and coherent support to Member States for developing and implementing their intended nationally determined contributions in the context of their overall efforts to pursue sustainable development;

(c) Will continue to equally prioritize efforts to build the resilience of people, communities and countries, especially the most vulnerable, to the adverse effects of climate change; and

(d) Will explore ways to increase access to financing for these efforts, including enhancing ways to leverage private finance with available public finance, in a sustainable manner and with safeguards to protect the public interest.